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SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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LIMIT TO WORKDAY.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Senator La Follette of Wisconsin has introduced a bill providing that "no female shall be employed or permitted to work in any mill, factory, manufacturing or mechanical establishments, or workshop, including, among others, any laundry, bakery, printing, clothing, dressmaking, or millinery establishment, store, hotel, restaurant, office, or where any goods are sold or distributed, or by any express or transportation company, or in the transmission or distribution of telegraph or telephone messages or merchandise, more than eight hours in any one day or more than six days or more than forty-eight hours in any one week." The bill also provides a prohibition against any female under eighteen years of age from being employed or permitted to work before 7 o'clock in the morning or after 6 o'clock in the afternoon. Another provision states that where a woman is employed in the same day more than one hour than the total time of employment must not exceed that allowed in the law for establishment. Employers are required to make diligent inquiry as to other employment of their female employes, and are presumed to have knowledge of other work in the absence of evidence to the contrary. This bill is a revision of the law which Senator La Follette presented to Congress a couple of years ago. If this bill is passed it will be operative only in the District of Columbia, but will set a good example to be followed by the various States and cities in the Union.

COMPLY WITH LAW.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The charter of the Alameda County Central Body was revoked some time ago because of violation of Section 1, Article II, of the constitution of the American Federation of Labor, in that the Central Body refused to unseat a local union of seceding electrical workers. An appeal was taken to the Rochester convention of the American Federation of Labor, but the appeal was not installed, an overwhelming majority voting to sustain the action. The revocation of charter was for failure to comply with the law referred to in telegram has just been received from the Alameda County Body to the effect that Section 1, Article II, of the constitution has been complied with and requesting a restoration of its charter.

ANOTHER UNION BUSTER.

Baltimore, Dec. 21.—Another plan has been evolved to smash the unions. There has been organized, largely on paper, in this city, the Building Trades and Employers' Association. This association is of the perennial variety and crops up every year in one guise or another, with the object of trading on nonunion sentiment. This new petitioner for union-smashing honors is operating the Chicago Building Employers Associations throughout the country to become members with the existing organization at the rate of 10 cents per member. In its prospectus is found the reason for its being born, in part, as among other things, "that it is to secure and maintain the highest standard of efficiency; a uniform system and harmonious relations with those connected with the Building Trades, whether they be engaged in the manufacture or sale of appliances, supplies, materials, or in the installation of equipment, the use of materials, or the erection of buildings, and securing a more equitable system of dealing between the members, the owner and members, to the end that the interests of all parties concerned may be fully protected and the trade in consequence thereof elevated to a higher standard of proficiency and usefulness. In order fully accentuate this declaration, to guarantee to the organizations admitted with this national association the absolute right of home rule in the adjustment of all matters pertaining to labor of a local nature which may arise or exist in their respective localities, this national association will be found in readiness at all times to assist in every way possible in times of trouble when called upon through the proper officers."

MOLDERS OUT AT ERIE.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 21.—Molders and coremakers employed at the Erie Stove Company are on strike, sixty men being involved. The trouble is stated to have been precipitated by the action of the men in refusing to discharge employes who were known to belong to the Molders' Union. The men declared that these discharges have been made at irregular periods during the last few weeks, and it was to protect the members of the union that the strike was called. A committee endeavored to secure an amicable adjustment of the grievance and at the same time put in a demand for $2.50 for a nine-hour day. The demands were refused, and the strike was called. The International Molders' Union was duly informed of the strike and sanctioned the action of the men in striking.

ENFORCING THE LAW.

Newport News, Va., Dec. 21.—As a result of charges having been brought before the court that the proprietor of a soft drink store was violating the local law and other laws in reference to labor, a verdict of guilty has been secured and fines assessed on two occasions. An effort was made by the defendants to gain time by requesting the court to suspend temporarily the penalty for the purpose of allowing the defendants to determine whether to take an appeal or not. This was denied by the court and fines collected.

MOVEMENT ACTIVE.

Gloucester, Mass., Dec. 21.—The unions of this city are increasing their membership rapidly, five new unions having recently been organized, and the combined membership reaching nearly 1,500. The organization of these unions has given an impetus to organizing work, and all unions are growing in membership as a result of the general activity.

RAILROAD FINED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 21.—The Lehigh Valley Railroad has been adjudged guilty of seven violations of the hours of service act of the interstate commerce laws by the Federal court and a fine of $350 has been imposed.

TRADE UNION VICTORY.

Washington, Dec. 21.—President Joseph F. Valentine, of the International Molders' Union of North America, in a letter just received at headquarters, states that representatives of the Iron Molders and representatives of the Stove Founders' National Defense Association have just concluded a conference lasting a week. The Iron Molders' representatives state that this conference were making an effort to reach a settlement with reference to an advanced scale of wages. The Stove Founders' representatives were opposed to granting any advance over the present scale. However, the Iron Molders were finally successful in securing a 5 per cent advance over the present scale, which will be put into effect on January 1 next and continue during the year. A number of other concessions were also secured which will be exceedingly helpful to the Iron Molders. This advance affects approximately 15,000 men directly and many more indirectly. This is a trade union victory, achieved by trade union methods, backed by trade union ability and business acumen.

PROTEST AGAINST CONDITIONS.

New York, Dec. 21.—Timothy Healy, President of the International Stationary Firemen's Union, testified before the State Factory Investigation commission recently and used vigorous language in describing the conditions which apply in the Greenpoint, Long Island, district of the Standard Oil Company. He stated that the men worked in shifts of ten and fourteen hours each. He also believed in "Without protection from the boat snow, rain, or hail, the Standard Oil employes at the Greenpoint docks stand in the open air working their lives out," said Healy. "The Standard Oil puts men in two shifts only, one of which works ten hours and the other fourteen. The fourteen hours' men work in the sheds. They go home from the furnaces, many of them, and fall into bed with their clothes on, to arise in a few hours and, whether or not the Standard Oil Company conducted a welfare department, Healy contended, it could not help hard-working drudgery. John D. Rockefeller doesn't believe in the welfare of his men. The only reason they shortened one of the shifts to ten hours," he explained, "was because otherwise they would have had a strike on their hands, and they would have one now if I had my way." Healy stated, also, that the furnace men of nearly every large office building in the city, and hotels and public buildings are obliged to work from twelve to fourteen hours every day, the year round, and that the average wage was $15 a week.

A UNIQUE CAMPAIGN

Philadelphia, Dec. 21.—The local Typographical Union of this city, backed by the International Typographical Union, is making an effort to secure the unionization of the composing rooms of the Curtis Publishing Company, publishers of The Saturday Evening Post, The Ladies' Home Journal, and the Country Gentleman. The campaign is being conducted in the very opposite of a boycott. The Philadelphia Typographical Union, in a circular just issued, makes use of the following statements in regard to the publications mentioned: "The Curtis Publications maintain an advanced position in the discussion of social and industrial questions, and for this reason, and because the Curtis Company should operate its composing room in agreement with Philadelphia Typographical Union, No. 2, typographical trade union agreement is the only guarantee which can be secured which assures fair working conditions in any composing room. This form of agreement is in force in most of the large printing houses throughout the country and is indorsed as an effective means of protection from twelve to fourteen hours every day, the year round, and that the average wage was $15 a week.

TEN-HOUR LAW UPHELD.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The Mississippi Supreme Court has upheld the ten-hour labor law passed by the legislature. This law was brought before the Supreme Court by a lumber company, backed, of course, by the other lumber companies of the State. At the beginning of the present term of the Supreme Court that tribunal stated that "mere platitudes mentioned" in the preliminary avail nothing in that tribunal." The court waived aside the arguments that the law in question was an abridgement of personal liberty, and also that it was an unwarranted interference with the right of a man to work when, where, and as long as he pleased, and held that the ten-hour law was a salutary measure and no more a curtailment of the rights of the individual than the Sunday law, the prohibition law, and other measures of a similar character are as to the individual, yet designed to benefit society as a whole.

THE IMMIGRATION BILL.

Washington, Dec. 21.—For years the American Federation of Labor has endeavored to secure the passage by Congress of an adequate and equitable immigration law. One of the features which the American Federation of Labor has contended for has been the literacy test, and it has stood steadfastly by its demands. When the immigration bill was passed in the Senate it carried the literacy test and was then sent to the House. There was also before the House committee the Burnett immigration bill, which subsequently was favorably reported on. A motion was made in the House December 18, during discussion on the Dillingham immigration bill, to substitute the Burnett bill for the Dillingham bill. The vote upon this motion or amendment was in effect a motion to accept the literacy test in the Dillingham bill by the House of Representatives. The motion was not accepted by the House on a roll call vote, the yeas being 201, nays 67. Upon this vote leading labor men were made to secure the passage of the bill as amended. Congressman Mann, the floor leader of the opposition, demanded the reading of the engrossed bill. This was impossible, and had the effect of delaying the vote upon the bill as a whole until such time as the engrossed bill has been prepared. As the Dillingham bill is all likelihood, will be done prior to adjournment on Thursday, December 19.

MAIL ORDER FIRMS HIT.

Washington, Dec. 21.—A bill has been introduced by Senator Clapp of Minnesota which, provides that mail order houses in interstate business shall be prohibited from selling goods in one locality cheaper than in another, except the difference in freight charges justifies the difference in price. This bill is an effort to put into the principles of the discrimination laws of Minnesota, Iowa, and other States to interstate concerns.

COAL MINE STRIKE.

Scarbrucken, Prussia, Dec. 21.—The members of the Christian Labor Union, numbering 30,000, have voted to strike. The strike, it is stated, affects the entire Saar Coal miners. The other Catholic unions, composed largely of the so-called Berlin wing, voted to await the fulfilment of the mine owners' promises for higher wages.

PRINTERS GET INCREASE.

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 21.—The members of the local typographical union, employed on the four dailies in this city, have successfully negotiated an increase in wages amounting to $1.50 a week. The scale came as a sort of a compromise, but is accepted with pleasant satisfaction by the printers of this city.

COMMISSION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT TAFT

Washington, Dec. 21.—A bill passed by Congress and approved August 23, 1912, provided for the creation of a commission, to be called the "Commission on Industrial Relations." It was provided that the commission should be composed of nine persons to be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, not less than three of whom should be employers of labor, and not less than three of whom should be representatives of organized labor. The Department of Commerce and Labor was also authorized to co-operate with said commission in any manner and to whatever extent the Secretary of Commerce and Labor might approve. Under the provisions of the law the President of the United States, on December 17, appointed the following nine commissioners provided for in the act:

REPRESENTING ORGANIZED LABOR.

JAMES O'CONNELL,
Third Vice President American Federation of Labor.

JOHN B. LENNON,
Treasurer American Federation of Labor.

A. B. GARRETSON,
President Order of Railway Conductors.

REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC.

HON. GEORGE SUTHERLAND,
United States Senator from Utah.

GEORGE B. CHANDLER,
Member Connecticut State Legislature.

CHARLES S. BARRETT,
President Farmers' Co-operative and Educational Union.

REPRESENTING THE EMPLOYERS.

F. A. DELANO,
President Wabash Railroad Company.

ADOLPH LEWISHON,
Engaged in Mercantile Business.

F. C. SCHWEDTMAN,
Vice President National Manufacturers' Association.

This commission is authorized as a whole or by subcommittees of the commission, duly appointed, to holding sittings and public hearings anywhere in the United States, to send for persons and papers; to administer oaths, to command and compel attendance of witnesses, and to compel testimony. The commission may report to Congress its findings and recommendations and submit the testimony taken from time to time, and shall make a final report, accompanied by its conclusions and recommendations, not later than three years after the date of the approval of this act, at which time the term of the commission will expire, unless it shall previously have made final report, and, in the latter case the term of the commission will expire with the making of its final report.

It is further provided that the commission shall make at least one report to Congress within the first year after its appointment and a second report within the second year of its appointment. This commission is directed to inquire into the general condition of labor in the principal industries of the United States, including agriculture, and especially in those which are carried on in corporate forms; into existing relations between employers and employes; into the effect of such relations upon the general welfare, and into the rights and powers of the community to deal therewith; into the conditions of sanitation and safety of employes and appliances for protecting life and limb, and health of the employes; into the growth of associations of employers and of wage earners, and the effect of such associations upon the relations between employers and employes; into the extent and results of methods of collective bargaining; into any methods which have been tried in any State or in foreign countries for maintaining mutually satisfactory relations between employer and employe; into the methods of avoiding or adjusting labor disputes through peaceful and conciliatory mediation and negotiation; into the scope, methods, and effectiveness of existing bureaus of labor and into possible ways of increasing their usefulness; into the question of smuggling or other illegal entry of Asiatics into the United States or its insular possessions, and of the methods by which such Asiatics have gained and are gaining such admission, and shall report to Congress as speedily as possible, with such recommendation as said commission may think proper to prevent such smuggling and illegal entry. The commission is further authorized to seek to discover the underlying causes of dissatisfaction in the industrial situation, and report its conclusions thereon.

The sum of $100,000 was appropriated for the use of the commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913. The members of the commission will receive their actual expenses of transportation, subsistence, and, in addition, a compensation of $10 per diem while actually engaged on the work of the commission, and while going to or returning from such work.

Those appointed on the commission by the President conform to the requirements of the act. Three of the appointees represent labor, three represent the employing class of labor, and three can be properly designated as representatives of the public. The American Federation of Labor, recognizing this commission as of extreme importance, gave its indorsement to the appointment of Frank P. Walsh, Vice President, and John B. Lennon, Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor. The Federation also expressed itself as favorable to the appointment of a representative of the Railroad Brotherhoods as the third representative of organized labor. In consequence thereof the representatives of organized labor upon the commission have the approval of the organized labor movement of America.

As the personnel of the commission has not as yet been confirmed by the Senate, no arrangements have been made for calling together the members of the commission for the purpose of outlining any plan of action. It is confidently expected, however, that the members of the commission will be confirmed by the Senate at an early date, and that active work will be commenced within a short time after the first of the coming year.

BOGUS UNION SUCCUMBS.

Toronto, Canada, Dec. 21.—The Canadian Garment Workers' Union has passed in its checks. A committee engaged in the manufacture of shirts, overalls, etc., was sponsor for this so-called Canadian union. This firm formerly operated in Buffalo and in the United Garment Workers of America, and placed the label of this organization upon its product. Later the agreement was violated by the firm and the Canadian Garment Workers' Union organized, and a boycott was placed upon the product. This proved to be a disastrous undertaking, and the Canadian union has succumbed, and it is understood that negotiations are now in progress to return to former conditions, whereby the company can have the right to use the label of the legitimate organization holding the jurisdiction over this class of the tailoring trade, the United Garment Workers of America.

WOMEN AND NIGHT WORK.

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Testimony was brought out before the state factory commission recently that women are employed at night work in the textile mills as an "experiment." These women are employed in winding the immense spools. There are approximately 2,500 women employed at night work in Utica factories, and they receive from 18 to 20 per week. They are obliged to report at 7 o'clock at night and work until 6 o'clock in the morning, with one hour off for a midnight meal. It also developed that there is not a single fire escape facility in Utica, yet representatives of the factories are opposed to the contemplated legislation which provides for adequate fire escapes and fire protection in buildings where large numbers are employed. The commission is securing valuable data for remedial legislation will undoubtedly follow at the meeting of the New York State Legislature, which will convene next month.

CONTEMPLATED MEETING.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers having charge of the strike in the Cabin Creek Paint Creek and Kanawha districts of West Virginia, are contemplating the making preparations for a mass meeting in this city immediately after the first of the year. The conditions which obtain in the districts mentioned are of such a character as to almost defy description. The operators in that section apparently have no regard for the methods usually employed by citizens of a civilized country, and it is the purpose of the representatives of the United Mine Workers to give the people of Washington and to Congress an opportunity to become acquainted with at least a portion of the outrages that are being committed by the coal mine operators of West Virginia.

OPEN MONOTYPE SCHOOL.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 21.—The Typographical Union of this city is perfecting plans for the opening of a monotype school of instruction on January 1. Any member of the Typographical Union is eligible to receive instructions for the ten weeks' free of any cost, applications being received by the president of the union, and selected in the order in which they are received.

GOVERNMENT WORKS PAY.

Washington, Dec. 21.—According to the chief of the Navy Bureau of Ordnance the total expenditures for labor and material at the naval gun factory on the navy yard in this city during the past fiscal year amounted to $5,606,648, and the total value of the finished product was $6,389,753. "The increased volume of work during the past year," says the chief of the bureau, "combined with changes in administration and methods, as well as the improvement of facilities for work has rendered the cost of work less than during any preceding year. The subject of modern management has been given careful attention, and certain features of the system have been introduced, but every change that has been made has been acceptable to the employes, so that a real increase in efficiency has been secured without antagonizing labor and without the introduction of any feature into the organization of work which was detrimental to the interests of the workmen."

AGAINST INSURANCE PLAN.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 21.—An attack was recently made by the big business interests of this State to shake the policy of the workmen's insurance commission. The annual report of the commission was in preparation and certain portions of the report are said to be a majority of the commission. Some of the big business interests do not take kindly to the present laws and to the recommendations to be made by the commission will be adopted in the light of the investigations which have been conducted. Efforts were made to have one member of the commission deposed, with the view of placing some one appointed who will be partisan to the big business interests. The law in this State has provision for appeals from decisions on a boon to those who have suffered industrial accidents, and the present law is considered by the insurance men as too liberal and they are going to endeavor to secure the passage of legislation which will undoubtedly follow at the meeting of the Legislature, which will convene next month.

GIVEN HEAVY FINES.

Los Angeles, December 21.—Two printing firms in this city, charged with having fraudulently used the union label of the Allied Printing Trades, pleaded guilty to the charge and were fined $100 in each instance. Sentence in one case was suspended, the promise being made that there would not be repeated, but in the other case fine was demanded. This is not the first instance of this character occuring in Los Angeles, but the Allied Printing Trades Council has announced that no fraudulent use of the union label must cease.

RUMORS OF BIG STRIKE.

New York, Dec. 21.—Rumors are to the effect that a big strike is imminent to eliminate sweat shops and to obtain better wages and conditions, and the nine-hour day for approximately 120,000 clothing makers. Committees are at work endeavoring to reach an agreeable settlement, but so far have been unsuccessful. No definite date has been set upon which to enforce the demands for better conditions, but it probably will be settled within the next week.

CLEVELAND CARPENTERS.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 21.—A referendum vote has been taken by the local unions of carpenters on the proposition to increase the minimum wage scale from 45 cents to 50 cents per hour next spring. It has not expected that the proposition would develop to the naive. Happily the Carpenter Commission has decided favorably on the increase and it will be inaugurated on April 15 next.

FIREMEN GET CONCESSION.

New York, Dec. 21.—The fifty Eastern railroads, through their committee on wages, have announced their readiness to adjust differences with the firemen if the latter would modify their demand for two firemen on certain heavy types of locomotives. This announcement, made by the chairman of the conference committee of managers in a letter to W. S. Carter, President of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. It was set forth that if the two firemen demand was waived the railroads would grant the other demands by conceding to the firemen advantages similar to those awarded by the board of arbitration in the case of the locomotive engineers. It is asserted that the demands of the firemen, both as regards working conditions and wages, would mean a total increase of $15,134,000 to the railroads annually. A conference is scheduled 16 be held between the general managers of the railroad and the representatives of the brotherhood, and it is expected that the reply of the firemen will then be presented.

BEATS PRIVATE CONTRACTORS.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The operation of the eight-hour day in the government navy yards works out satisfactorily to everybody, private contractors and the government work. Private shipbuilding companies have had their own way so long that in the extension of the eight-hour law to include private contractors where construction work is done for the government, it was to be expected that various howls and strange noises would emanate from them by the application of any law designed for a humanitarian character. That the government itself, working under a strict observance of the eight-hour law, is proving the efficacy and utility of the shorter workday is forcefully set forth in a report which has just been issued in reference to the November advance in construction. The New York navy yard had all completed on battleship construction last month, advancing the New York 2.2 per cent toward completion, so that now it stands 46.7 per cent finished. Work on the other battleships being built in commercial yards on the same basis were 1.5 per cent; total, 89.7 per cent. Nevada, 2.2 per cent; total, 12.8 per cent. Oklahoma, 1.9 per cent; total, 11.2 per cent. Of nine new torpedoboat destroyers now building, three are ready for service, or completion, its percentage December 1 being 99.3. The submarine torpedoboat F-4 is now 91 per cent completed, and probably will be the first of fifteen similar craft now building to be completed.

MATCH COMPANY SUED.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 21.—Much interest has been aroused by the action of the State against the Diamond Match Company in Oshkosh for fines of $19,900 alleged to be due for violation of the child labor law. This is the first suit under the kind ever instituted. As a rule child labor prosecutions have been carried on and the nominal amount of penalties. The Industrial Commission of the State, however, according to statements given out by its chairman, does not believe in permit violators to escape with a small fine. In this instance employers have violated the law deliberately, believing that the profits of employing cheap child labor would more than offset the penalty of a fine and still leave a good margin of profit. That the Industrial Commission is not acting in the interest of enforcement the law is made plain by the attitude of the Governor and the Attorney General in the present case the Governor called upon the Attorney General to prepare the case that the commission might lay it before the Industrial Commission. The members of the Industrial Commission assert that they are charged by the State Federation with the enforcement of this law and they are going to enforce it. They assert that they do not propose to see the dollar put ahead of the welfare of children, and think employers who violate the law in the future will face actions similar to that started against the Oshkosh concern.

TO MULCT HATTERS.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Unconfirmed information has been received that the Danbury hatters have been very successful in its suit against the United States for treble damages, a judgment, it is alleging an effort to collect the sum. It will be remembered that the homes of a large number of the Danbury hatters, members of Union in Danbury, Conn., were attached to satisfy the judgment secured in a former suit, and it is now reported that legal steps are being taken to have the homes of the Danbury hatters released for the purpose of liquidating this judgment. Definite information is not at hand at this time as to the present status of the situation, but it is believed that as an appeal will be taken by the hatters to the higher courts, a considerable time legal process will be found to intervene, prohibiting the sale under the writs of execution against the homes of the hatters until the appeal now pending can be disposed of.

THE STEEL BUSINESS.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Commercial agencies give out the information that the steel trade is doing business under a great pressure and that new business is heavy from both domestic and foreign consumers. It is stated that railroads continue to place orders for equipment with the mills in large numbers, and before next summer is over, with the further information that, the wire mills, as a result, will be operating on only three days of eight months. It is asserted that the largest wire rod mill in the country, which will require continuous operation until next October. The manufacturers of barbed wire are operating at from 21 to 22 per ton, and higher prices for rivets are imminent. The American Steel and Wire Company has advanced the price of wire products 1 a ton, effective at once.

PRISON-MADE AUTOS.

Albany, Dec. 21.—It has been announced that the manufacture of automobile trucks will soon be undertaken on a large scale at Great Bend. It is reported that a recent test of an auto truck made in the prison shops of the factory and that an order for a large number of the prison-made trucks is expected shortly from the New York State Cleaning Department.

LARGE FORCE EMPLOYED.

Washington, Dec. 21.—According to advices from officials in charge of the work of the Panama Canal, the construction force was the largest in the history of the Canal at the end of November. There were 19,159 men at work on the Canal, of which 18,000 were citizens. On the construction of the lock-gates 4,000 men were employed.

GRAND JURY ACTS.

Hastings, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Last summer a strike occasioned by a contract between the National Cable and Conduit Company. This company employed a number of private detectives and thugs, and during the progress of the strike a woman was killed as the result of the activities of the thugs. The matter was brought up by the union involved, and the District Attorney instituted an investigation. The grand jury of Westchester County has had this case under consideration, and it is rumored that officials of the company have been indicted, although no confirmed statement has been given out. The grand jury, however, did give out a statement which is of much interest, and is as follows: "The grand jury of Westchester County for the September term of the county court adjourned this day hereby makes the following presentments regarding the shooting of several persons on the 24th day of June, 1912, in the village of Hastings, by private watchmen during a strike in that village. As a result of a most exhaustive investigation we feel that we can emphatically condemn the practice of hiring nonresident armed guards for the protection of property before the authorities of the county have been appealed upon for such service. The Sheriff and duly constituted authorities are the proper persons to protect life and property, and the employment of nonresident private detectives to perform police duties for the protection of private property but on the highway, is a practice to be condemned and we desire, as a grand jury, to record our emphatic disapproval of such practices."

NEEDS LEATHER MEDAL.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The Labor Clarion, in its last issue, prints this item, which is self-explanatory: "Supervisor Gallagher of Sacramento has brought to light the star union buster in a laundry owner in that city. His name is Warner, and he accused the Laundry Workers' Union of not being agreeable to do business with, whereupon he was requested to draw up a proper agreement of his own. This he did. The agreement proved to be satisfactory to the union, and he was asked to be a representative. Then the union buster surprised all concerned by refusing to sign his own agreement."

SOUTHEASTERN LABOR CONGRESS

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 21.—Representatives of labor from the Southeastern States met in this city December 10, 11, and 12 for the purpose of considering matters affecting labor in the Southern half of the country. There were 236 delegates present. Quite a number of international officers were present, and participated in the discussion of the numerous questions that came up. The present organization was formed by the election of thirteen vice presidents, one from each State and one representative from each of the thirteen States of the South as vice presidents, a board of directors, an executive board, and the name adopted was the "Southeastern Trades Congress. The next meeting will be held in Nashville, Tenn., in September, 1913. The object of the organization is to secure legislative measures in the various State federations, and is to be a sort of clearing house where organizing and legislative matters may be considered and recommendations made to the State Federations of Labor. The labor leaders of the South were largely represented in the meeting, and a member of the United Labor Bureau Chairmen was a candidate in opposition to Jerome Jones for president. The American Federation of Labor was represented by James O'Connell, who made many suggestions to the meeting which were considered helpful in aiding labor of the South, advising the officers of the Congress to keep in touch with the Federation of Labor, the Federation of Labor regarding any legislation which might be sought in the Southern States, so that there would be a uniformity of bills introduced along lines sanctioned by the Federation of Labor. Labor in order that a conflict of opinion of representatives seeking legislation at different sessions of Congress be avoided. The gathering was harmonious and showed a splendid spirit among the union men of the Southeastern States.

MUST OBEY LAW.

New York, Dec. 21.—It has been announced by the police authorities that at last all persons with wireless telegraphing apparatus will be liable for prosecution unless they immediately procure licenses. It is stated that the government officials have a corps of detectives at work in the offices of the wireless of the New York district. During the next two months inspectors will visit every wireless station in the city, and will test the machines to see that no amateur can send a message with the range of more than 200 meters. Commercial stations may have longer waves, but will must be under Federal supervision.

ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN.

Joplin, Mo., Dec. 21.—Organizers for the Western Federation of Miners are actively engaged in an effort to organize the Joplin district. For many years efforts have been made to only with partial success, to secure organization in this field. Some months ago a strike occurred recently, however, but the Mine Owners' Association has taken active steps to defeat the organization of the miners. The fight is to be continued and a vigorous campaign kept up to bring the zinc mines into the fold of organization.

WOMEN REPLACING STRIKERS.

Toledo, Dec. 21.—In a strike of the iron workers against the Overland Company in East Toledo 200 men and boys are idle. Immediately about thirty Hungarian women have been given jobs. The lines of laborers employed at the foundry were brought to the foundry and commenced work on the machines used in the foundry making. It is apparently the aim of the company to replace all male coremakers with foreign women.

SHINGLE WEAVERS' CONVENTION

Portland, Ore., Dec. 21.—The official call for the annual convention of the International Shingle Weavers' Union has been issued. The convention will hold its sessions in this city commencing January 16. The convention will seek to enlarge the jurisdiction of the organization, and will have a number of important matters affecting organizing campaign for 1913.